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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/809,678 | BECKER, PETER | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Carol S Tsai | 2857 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/26/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>3/26/2004</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-5 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

U. S. Patent No. 5,128,855 to Hilber et al. in view of U.S Patent No. 4,528,667 to Fruhauf are references closest to the claimed invention. Hilber et al. in combination with Fruhauf disclose a method of monitoring an automation system, comprising at least one terminal, which is configured to assume at least two state values, outputting a message telegram in accordance with the at least two state values; and a control unit entering the message telegram from the at least lone terminal and the at least one terminal outputting another massge telegram only after the one terminal has received an acknowledgment signal from the control unit. However, Hilber et al. in combination with Fruhauf do not teach the message telegram containing at least one first transition component, which indicates a transition from a first state value to a second state value of the at least two state values, and contains at least one second transition component, which indicates a transition from the second state value to the first state value of the at least two state values; and including all of the other limitations in the respective independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Barthel et al. disclose a method for operating an automation system that has at least one input unit for receiving process signals and at least one output unit for driving external peripherals, the input unit and the output unit being communicatively interconnected via a bus.

Zimmerman et al. disclose an industrial automation system for monitoring and controlling field devices within a distributed digital control system.

Mitchell et al. disclose the scan cycle in a programmable logic controller being constructed so as to allow the PLC users program to execute an instruction to assign a user program section to which the PLC system is to transfer control upon the occurrence of an instruction-specified event.

Dolan et al. disclose a device for reading and transmitting control parameter selections to a control system for an HVAC system.

Gut discloses a method and equipment for bidirectional data transfer, whereby the transmission is implemented using a protocol between devices that are partners in communication ("communicators") having both a transmitter and a receiver, and whereby the information is transmitted in serial bit form and the direction of the data streams is switchable.

Sonobe et al. disclose a software work tool used in an information processor and realizing a general purpose software work tool capable of automatically performing a software operation based on the information regarding a program.

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Inou et al. disclose a switching power supply comprising a converting circuit; an analog-to-digital converter for converting a signal referring to an output signal from the converting circuit into digital form; a parallel-to-series converter for converting a bit train signal containing the output signal from the analog-to-digital converter into a pulse train; an isolation means for transmitting the pulse train to the primary winding of a transformer while concurrently electrically isolating the pulse train; a series-to-parallel converter for demodulating the pulse train into a parallel signal; and a control circuit.

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol S. W. Tsai whose telephone number is (571) 272-2224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (571) 272-2216. The fax number for TC 2800 is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2800 receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1585 or (571) 272-2800.

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 2800 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office actions directly into the Group at (703) 872-9306. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO

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deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet.

Papers submitted via FAX into Group 2800 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.



Carol S. W. Tsai
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2857

12/27/04